

Mainstream

By Spiegel

A QUIET VOICE IS HEARD

In room number 304, south wing of the Hill Annex dormitories, atop the third floor, the member of Miracle Engineering Enterprises run their business; the major concern of which is an independant radio station—WCCT. The station broadcasts in both AM and FM to all the Clarkson dorms, between the hours of 7 and 12 at night. It was formed in the few weeks before final exams last semester by about 20 to 25 freshmen and sophomores, who under the leadership of Roy Krause and Ted Perkins, donated a number of parts for the completion of the station and has been run continuously throughout this semester by a staunch crew of about seven men. Much of the equipment was constructed by the members themselves, and the organization was formed and is run on the initiative of M.E.E. In the apathetic atmosphere which Clarkson finds itself hopelessly sunk, this is nothing short of phenominal.

The station operates with a minimum amount of talk; playing studiable music from Sunday to Thursday and leaving their rock and roll records until Friday and Saturday when most of the audience is out of the dorms. In addition to this, WCCT brings the CBS news in live from studios in New York City via Plattsburgh station WEAV-FM every weekday night at nine and on Sundays at ten. Also a broadcast of Plattsburgh station WEAV-FM is heard nightly between 10:10 and 12:00.

The president of the Plattsburgh Station (WEAV-FM) when told of WCCT's plans of rebroadcasting a few hours of its air time each night to students who live in the dorms, expressed his interest and gave the enterprise full permission to fulfill their plans. And so today this small group of industrious men operate the second major college radio station on campus; a station which goes unrecognized as a campus organization but runs as smoothly as any established activity (and perhaps even more so).

This new station is not a fly-by-night flash-in-the-pan. Its organizers are conscientious and responsible. They feel they are performing a much needed service for the students living in the dorms. And the students who listen at night, in return, are responsive to the service WCCT offers. In a petition posted recently in the dining halls of Hill and Men's Res. over 350 students voiced a desire to have Miracle Engineering Enterprises continue WCCT next year on the same basis that it has been successfully operating this semester. It should be pointed out that these names were not solicited over the air but were signed by students who were under little or no propaganda influence. The popularity of WCCT can well be attested to by a slow walk some evening up and down the halls of the dormitories, with an ear carefully cocked to the radio playing in each room passed. It's this columnists opinion that the number of radios tuned to WCCT are well in the majority of the total sets being listened to.

There is one problem, however, facing the young station. In order to continue next year, a small amount of space will be necessary to carry on operation of the expanding service. The major problem though, is not that of obtaining a place to set up a small studio, or as a member of the administration said, "We could probably find them a room next year, if they become recognized." Therefore the immediate obstacle is that of gaining Student Council recognition for the station.

Last Monday night WCCT brought their case before the Student Council, and since not enough evidence was present for any kind of decision to be made, the representatives of the station were told to come back next week after the executive committee of S.C. looked into the issue.

One solution the council may offer is to put WCCT on a long term trial basis, an act which will prove to the council whether or not the station is going to last even after the innovators have gone. Another solution might be some sort of an agreement made with WNTC over the operation of the new station as a division of the campus station. In either case, a room for next year's studio is necessary for the continuing operation of WCCT. Some arrangement must be worked out between the new station and those members of the administration that control housing. If the enterprise does not get their room, then their operations will be under a tremendous disadvantage next year; perhaps even discontinuing altogether.

WCCT is a student supported station. It is geared primarily for those students living in the dorms who enjoy the easy listening of good music with very little "vocalizing" and also to those who wish to study with condusive music playing. As this is the only station that has a policy of "music to study by", it is in the best interests of the student body to continue its operation. Whether or not the station itself is recognized by the council is irrelevant. The service it performs is important enough to warrant a special operating area, and if recognition can not be obtained, then this should not be held against a new and much needed radio station.